

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A display device for displaying, on a display screen, information specified in a document description language for a structured document, and performing a screen switching in response to a user input, said device comprising:

5           analysis means for analyzing said information, and dividing said information into a plurality of component elements;

          rule change instruction means for making an instruction for a change of layout rules to be applied to said information;

          layout rule change means for selecting one of said  
10 layout rules responding to the instruction from said rule change instruction means;

          layout means for laying out each of said component elements derived by said analysis means according to the layout rule selected by said layout rule change means;

15           user input means for receiving the user input;

          display range determination means for determining a display range of said information based on said user input; and

          display means for generating screen data of the display range determined by said display range determination means based  
20 on said component elements derived by said analysis means and a layout result of each of said component elements, and displaying the screen data on the display screen.

2. The display device according to claim 1, wherein said information includes at least one or more of a text element, a table element, and an image element.

3. The display device according to claim 1, wherein said document description language is a markup language or a hypertext description language.

4. The display device according to claim 1, wherein said rule change instruction means receives the user input, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules.

5 5. The display device according to claim 1, wherein said rule change instruction means refers to the display range determined by said display range determination means, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules based on an attribute of each of said component elements included in the display range.

6. The display device according to claim 1, wherein said rule change instruction means refers to the display range determined by said display range determination means, and makes the instruction for the change of the layout rules based on the layout result of each of said component elements included in the display range.

7. The display device according to claim 1, wherein each of said layout rules included in said layout rule change means defines a layout method for each type of said component elements of said information.

8. The display device according to claim 1, wherein the layout rules to be selected by said layout rule change means include one type of layout rule for laying out a table element included in said information in a table structure.

9. The display device according to claim 1, further comprising a user input process rule change means for selecting one of a plurality of user input process rules applicable to said user input according to the instruction from said rule change instruction means, wherein

said display range determination means follows the user input process rule selected by said user input process rule change means, and determines the display range of said information based on said user input.

10. The display device according to claim 9, wherein said rule change instruction means instructs, at the same time, said layout rule change means for the change of the layout rules, and said user input process rule change means for the change of the user input process rules.

11. A display device for displaying, on a display screen, information specified in a document description language for a structured document, and performing a screen switching in response to a user input, said device comprising:

5           analysis means for analyzing said information, and dividing said information into a plurality of component elements;

          layout means for laying out each of said component elements derived by said analysis means;

          user input means for receiving the user input;

10           rule change instruction means for making an instruction for a change of user input process rules to be applied to said user input;

          user input process rule change means for selecting one of said user input process rules according to the instruction from  
15           said rule change instruction means;

          display range determination means for following the user input process rule selected by said user input process rule change means, and determining a display range of said information based on said user input; and

20           display means for generating screen data of the display range determined by said display range determination means based on said component elements derived by said analysis means and a layout result of each of said component elements, and displaying the screen data on the display screen.

12. The display device according to claim 11, wherein said information includes at least one or more of a text element, a table element, and an image element.

13. The display device according to claim 11, wherein said document description language is a markup language or a hypertext description language.

14. The display device according to claim 11, wherein said rule change instruction means receives the user input, and makes the instruction for the change of the user input process rules.

15. The display device according to claim 11, wherein said rule change instruction means refers to the display range determined by said display range determination means, and makes the instruction for the change of the user input process rules based on an attribute of each of said component elements included in the display range.

16. The display device according to claim 11, wherein said rule change instruction means refers to the display range determined by said display range determination means, and makes the instruction for the change of the user input process rules based on a result of each of said component elements included in

the display range.

17. The display device according to claim 11, wherein each of said user input process rules included in said user input process rule change means defines a process assigned to each type of said user input.